



For Immediate Release

January 24, 2007

**Senator Gregg's Statement on the Congressional Budget Office's
Budget and Economic Outlook for Fiscal Years 2008-2017**

“Today’s report from CBO indicates that despite strong revenues and declining deficits over the next several years, the long-term budgetary picture continues to pose a serious challenge. Under CBO baseline assumptions, spending for the huge entitlement programs of Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid will absorb an increasingly large portion of GDP – 11 percent by 2017 as compared to 9 percent this year. In fact, CBO projects that overall entitlement spending will grow by an average of 5.9 percent per year during the 2008-2017 window, which is faster than the economy itself.

“These projections echo what we have been hearing for years now, and I urge Congress to begin to really listen and take action. We must put in place a process for finding a solution. Taking the necessary steps to slow the growth of entitlement spending is the only way to ensure that future generations will enjoy the same economic security and opportunities that we do.”